



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

WASHINGTON AFFAIRS OFFICE

Mary Alice Baish

*Acting Washington Affairs Representative
Georgetown University Law Center*

February 14, 2005

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4305

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries, I commend you for your leadership in promoting access to government information by introducing the *Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National (OPEN) Government Act of 2005*. We share your belief that accessible government information is both an essential principle of a democratic society and a valuable public good.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is a nonprofit educational organization with over 5000 members nationwide who respond to the legal information needs of legislators, judges, and other public officials at all levels of government, corporations and small businesses, law professors and students, attorneys, and members of the general public. Our mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries, to foster law librarianship and to provide leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy.

AALL believes that public inspection of government records, including electronic records, under the *Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)* is the foundation for citizen access to government information. The *OPEN Government Act of 2005* provides important and timely amendments to FOIA. AALL supports this important legislation and we look forward to working with you to ensure its prompt enactment.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Baish
American Association of Law Libraries
Associate Washington Affairs Representative